

BAY MANAGEMENT STUDY
STATEMENT OF STUDY PRINCIPLES

LD 1857 outlines a two-year course of action on the topic of bay management for an interagency staff work group overseen by the Land and Water Resources Council with input from a steering committee. At the onset of any study, it is useful to identify the principles that will provide the underlying foundation for the work, particularly as a way to articulate for all interested parties the defining parameters that will provide guidance for the study as it develops. Bay management is a new concept in this region, and the work of this study will entail identifying a range of approaches that may be feasible for use in Maine. The purpose of this statement is to document the basic principles under which the work of the bay management study will take place.

An overarching tenet of the bay management study is that Maine's submerged lands and coastal waters are held, to the greatest extent possible, for use and enjoyment by all of Maine's citizens. That use and enjoyment has historically involved a broad and diverse array of opportunities with emphasis on both maintaining a working waterfront and providing for recreational activities. The work of this bay management study will proceed in a manner that is fully cognizant of our coast's past uses, recognizes that future uses should continue to be diverse, and will focus on the best interests of all the people of the State. A primary purpose of a bay management approach is to increase compatibility of uses of the nearshore area for all of the people of the State of Maine. Enhancing local input into decision-making is important to this goal.

Given that the thorough consideration of how Maine's embayments will be managed is of great significance to all people of the State of Maine, it is important that the public participation component of the bay management study offer varied methods for interested parties to follow and participate in the development of the study. A central element of the study is the bay management pilot projects, and these will be selected through an open and competitive process.